



HOUGHTON ELEMENTARY

October Newsletter



Houghton Elementary School

Houghton-Portage Township Schools



Houghton Elementary School is a proud 2023 National Blue Ribbon School and a MTSS Silver Recognition school for behavior and reading supports. We provide a safe, supportive, and engaging environment where all students can thrive. Our dedicated staff fosters strong relationships and delivers a rich, well-rounded education that prepares students for success.

Upcoming Events

Dates TBD - October

Fire Prevention Month

Grade level Presentations given by the Houghton Fire Dept.

Friday, October 9th

In-Service Day

No School for Students!

Friday, October 30th

Halloween

Afternoon Costume Parade and Parties!

Thursday, November 12th

Parent Teacher Conferences

1:00pm - 3:00pm and 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Friday, November 13th

Parent Teacher Conferences

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Every Day Counts!

At Houghton Elementary, we believe that **every student, every day** truly matters. Regular school attendance plays a key role in academic success, positive relationships, and long-term habits that support lifelong learning.

Here's how families can help:

- **Establish consistent routines for bedtime and morning.**
- **Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.**
- **Avoid extended vacations during the school year.**

Even missing just a few days each month can add up and impact a student's progress. Let's work together to make attendance a priority and ensure all our Gremlins thrive!

Halloween Celebrations

Mark your calendar for Friday, Oct. 30th, for our annual Halloween celebration. Our Costume Parade will begin at 1:45pm. Parents are asked to view the parade from the blacktop area by the basketball hoops on our playground. Parents can enter the playground from the upper Round About gate, or lower playground gate by the school loading dock off of Jacker Avenue.

We plan to stream the parade on Facebook Live for parents and families.

Please do not send any toy weapons (plastic guns, swords or knives) as part of costumes. Also, please do not send students in masks that are difficult to see out of. If it is raining we will move the parade indoors and stream it on Facebook Live for parents/family to view.



A Positive Climate and Culture

"Every Student. Every Day. Whatever it takes." - Jimmy Casas

At Houghton Elementary, "Every student. Every day." is more than a motto — it guides everything we do. Through Capturing Kids' Hearts, The Positivity Project, and our T.E.A.M. behavior system, we build strong relationships and a safe, supportive environment where every student feels valued and ready to succeed.

The Positive Project

At Houghton Elementary, we continue to build a strong, positive school culture through The *Positivity Project* —a character education program that helps students develop meaningful relationships and a strong sense of self.

In October, our school-wide focus will be on several key character traits including the "**Other People Matter**" (OPM) mindset, including:

- **OPM** - Being present and giving others my attention – Students are learning how to listen actively, show care, and be fully engaged in their interactions with peers and adults.
- **Integrity** – We're highlighting the importance of doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.
- **Creativity** – Students will explore ways to think outside the box, express their ideas, and solve problems with imagination and originality.
- **OPM** - Knowing my words and actions affect others – This powerful concept helps students reflect on how their behavior influences those around them—at school, at home, and in the community.

We encourage you to talk with your child about these topics at home and share how they see these traits in action in their daily lives. Together, we can help all our Gremlins grow into kind, confident, and compassionate individuals!

September T.E.A.M. Students

Each month we are recognize a student in each class that exemplifies our schools TEAM goals:

Take responsibility
Earn respect
Act positively
Make it safe

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM STUDENTS!!!!

Kindergarten/Y5's: Ryla Hupp, Will Helminen, Alana Martens, Rio Wunrow-Bruscafer, Emery Skoog

1st Grade: Adalee Kehus, Dawson Carne Mallory Korth, Kehuai Zhong

2nd Grade: Loralie Crowley, Corvid Young Khloe Parsons, Meadow Lurn

3rd Grade: Kinsley Deyaert, Bennett Limkemann Blake Aho, Aurora Curtis

4th Grade: Alivia Pihlaja, Quincy Melin Iris O'Connell, Dahlia Theisen, Islay VanTreese

5th Grade: Ayla Anderson, Aubrey Rothenberger Lev Juntunen, Marabelle Hermann, Ava Jacques



Other Important Information!

MSTEP Scores and HES Yearbook Information



M-STEP Scores

We are very proud of our students performance on the Spring 2026 state tests. Our scores are a reflection of outstanding students and great teachers. We will use this data to help guide curriculum adjustments. Scores represent percent of students proficient or advanced. We added a comparison to State averages and the average score for local schools in the areas in the Copper Country ISD. The data represents the percentage of students who were “advanced” or “proficient” on the M-STEP assessments.

Grade/Subject	HES 2026		State 2026	CCISD 2026
3 rd grade Math	52%		42.9%	51.9%
3 rd grade ELA	48%		38.2%	44.3%
4 th grade Math	68.3%		39.4%	50.3%
4 th grade ELA	68.3%		41.3%	46.3%
5 th grade Math	57.9%		32.9%	43.5%
5 th grade ELA	60.7%		43.8%	43.4%

HES 2026-27 Yearbook Information

Order forms for the 2026-2027 Houghton Elementary School Yearbook will be sent home at the end of this week.



This year's yearbook is in color, spiral bound and includes individual student photographs, group photos of school organizations, and fun candid snapshots.

Yearbooks are \$18.00 and will be distributed in late May. Order forms with payment are due on Friday, November 13th. A limited quantity of extra yearbooks will be available when orders arrive in May.